inevitable for restoration of crop or other silvicultural consideration, it should be restricted to areas not exceeding 10 hectares in the hills and 25 hectares in the plains.

(ii) To consider banning of fellings in the hills above 1,000 metres, at least for some years.

(iii) To identify critical areas in the hills and mountains which required protection from felling of forests and need immediate vigorous afforestation.

(iv) To set apart 4% of the geographic area as protection area like wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, biosphere reserves etc.

Delay in Finalisation of the Eighth Five Year Plan

101. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not been able to finalise the Eighth Five Year Plan so far, if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) if so, whether a number of suggestions made in the Chief Ministers' conference have delayed the finalisation of the draft plans for the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) when was the Eighth Five Year Plan planned oriignally to start?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) to (c) The Eighth Five Year Plan was due to start on 1-4-90. However, the Plan has not been finalised so far. The Approach to the Eighth Plan had to be drawn up afresh after the new Government came to power in December 1989. The Approach was drafted and got endorsed by the National Development Council within a short time of six months in June, 1990. No suggestions made at the Chief Ministers' Conference have delayed the finalisation of the Plan.

New Employment Generation Strategy suggested by the Planning Commission

102. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recommended a new employment generation strategy during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether this strategy has been accepted by the National Development Council; and

(c) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) to (c) The Eighth Plan Approach document proposes employment as the central thrust of the Plan. The target will be to achieve on the average a 3 per cent annual rate of increase in employment over the next decade.

For this purpose, the Approach suggests that substantial shifts in the pattern of investment in favour of sectors and activities using less capital and more labour per unit of output would be necessary. The proposed strategy emphasises creation of employment opportunities on an increasingly larger scale in the normal process of development. At the same time, it recognises the need for special programmes designed to offer guaranteed work to the needy as an interim measure. The strategy proposed has been endorsed by the National Development Council at its meeting to consider the Approach document on 18—19 June 1990.